



The Randolph Review

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New Rating for Randolph Fire Department may mean lower rates on insurance for residents

CONTACT YOUR HOME OWNERS INSURANCE COMPANY

NEW ISO RATING 8b and 4

Residents in Randolph Township may get a substantial break on their homeowners insurance based on an outstanding performance by the Randolph Township Fire Department.

Fire Chief Mike Lang Jr. said the department passed a rating test this spring that won the department a change in its state Public Protection Classification number from Class 9 to a split rating of Class 4 within 1,000 feet of East Manufacturing plant and its pressurized hydrants, and Class 8B for the rest of the township. The testing was done in March and Randolph recently got word of the change.

There are only 30 8B townships in Ohio. Most, nearly 900, are Class 9. Randolph is the only Class 8B township in Portage, Lang said. The rating "recognizes a superior level of fire protection in otherwise Class 9 areas," according to ISO Properties Inc., the rating organization.

"They came out and evaluated us and we did better than we did (years) before," Lang said. Previously, the entire township was Class 9, Lang said, typical of a rural township without hydrants. "For a volunteer department to move out of a 9 is tremendous, and for us to do it without hydrants is outstanding."

The evaluation is very involved and lengthy and covers testing the department's equipment, consistency of water supply, response times, personnel, dispatch and training of personnel.

Insurance companies use the ratings to determine their premiums to property owners.

Thank you for supporting the Randolph EMS Levy!



Graffiti on Township Traffic Signs Costly

Graffiti on Randolph Township traffic signs is continuing to cost taxpayers for repairs. This problem continues to grow every year. Normally Randolph Township spends approximately \$500 in repairing signs because of graffiti. In 2009 \$1500 was spent by our road department to repair damage from graffiti.

If you witness a case of vandalism to the road signs in the township please report it to the Sheriffs Office as soon as possible. Then report it in the case of township roads to the Randolph Road Department at 330 325-2776 and country roads report it to the County Engineer at 330 296-6411.



SATURDAY 9AM-NOON

RANDOLPH SCHOOL PARK 1776 ST RT 44

EVERY SATURDAY-THE 3RD SATURDAY IN JUNE THRU THE 3RD SATURDAY IN OCTOBER

Randolph Farmers Market was a great success for it's first season.

On November 14, the Randolph Farmers Market Advisory Committee invited vendors, sponsors to a potluck lunch to discuss the Farmers Market operation and get feedback on this year's market.

In January, Market Committee will be starting plans for the 2010 Market. Anyone interested in participating in the Randolph Farmers Market should call 325-7338 for more information.

The first Market in 2010 will be on June 19, At the Randolph School Park.

In the mean time, on December 5, 2009 a Holiday Market will be held in the Randolph Community and Senior Center from 10-4 pm.

Santa will be there from 1-3 pm for children to have free pictures taken.

It will be a perfect place to start your holiday gift shopping.



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Donate Your Running or Non-Running Vehicle

"Cars for Kids" is a program designed to raise funds for Big Brothers & Sisters. To donate your running or non-running car or truck:

- Call the BB&S office at (330) 296-6655.
- Your vehicle will be towed free of charge.
- Donors need to provide the keys and title.

• Donors may also claim a tax deduction for making a charitable contribution.



New Trustee Starts in January 2010

The first woman trustee was elected in Randolph Township on November 3, 2009.

Randolph Resident Susan White will become a Randolph Township Trustee on January 1, 2010 for a 4 year term. Susan is a graduate of Waterloo High School, attended Kent State University, The University of Akron and is a Licensed Realtor.

Susan and her husband Rick are longtime residents of Randolph and are very active in the community.

Susan is looking forward to serving the residents of Randolph and offering her experience to the Randolph Board of Trustees.

Welcome aboard Sue!

Portage County Veterans Service Commission

The Veterans Service Commission was established for the purpose of assisting veterans and their dependents who have met with unexpected hardship as a result of sickness, injury, disease, or lack of employment.

Of primary importance to the Veterans Service Commission are the basic necessities of life, such as food, shelter, utilities, etc. It is the purpose of the Commission to assist veterans and their

dependents temporarily until a permanent solution to their difficulties can be arranged.

The Director of the VSC is Robert Park and they are located at 449 South Meridian St., 3rd Floor, Portage County Administration Bldg. Ravenna, Ohio 44266 and their Phone is 330-297-3545, Office Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

OLD SCHOOLS IN RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP

By: Myron Mullett

Following the settlement of Randolph Township in 1802, the early settlers' children were taught in their own homes. Gradually subscription schools in which parents paid an enrollment fee were started. In 1826, the trustees divided the township into 5 school districts; Center, East, West, Hollow and Butternut Hill.

One room log buildings were constructed in each district. Most of these small structures were usually situated at a cross roads. Each consisted of one room, which varied in size, but were always small enough that the teacher's voice would carry to the farthest corner. Most had a cloak room at the entrance with hooks or nails for coats and hats; a top shelf for lunch pails and a lower shelf upon which a wash basin, a bar of homemade soap and a cotton towel were situated. A bucket of water and a dipper were located nearby. Often a simple dug or driven well with a hand pump provided water.

Furnishings included a teacher's desk, crude benches and desks for the scholars, a fireplace or an iron box stove, small slates and chalk. Perhaps a large black slateboard was situated on the wall. A yard stick or rulers could also be found in the typical classroom. These schools had

few if any books. The students usually learned by reciting their lessons aloud in what became to be known as "blab schools".

Sessions in these early schools lasted only a few months. The school year was divided into summer and winter terms. Most farm boys were needed for planting and harvesting and attended only the winter term (mid-November to mid-April).

Pupils ranged from 4 year olds to rowdy farm boys as old as 21. Teachers worked hard, preparing as many as 40 lesson plans for the 20 to 30 students. Pupils were grouped by their level of academic progress. Older students often took pride in tutoring the younger classmates in the various subjects and skill areas. There were normally 3 recesses; morning, noon and afternoon. This allowed for outhouse privileges followed by a brief recreation period. Some favorite games were; London bridge is falling down, ring around the rosie, crack the whip, kick the bucket, tag, hide & seek, etc. Perhaps a teeter-totter or rope swing hung from a nearby tree could also provide a brief fun time. More active games of baseball or a game called dare base were favorites with the older students. Other activities might have included jump rope, mumbly peg, Chinese tag, and shooting marbles.

Most lessons took the form of memorizing poems, essays, and orations. Each day the students were required to recite a verse, learn new spelling words, the order of the presidents or state capital cities, etc. Spelldowns, blackboard races and solving math problems in their heads were also favorite activities.

Math drills

Twice times 1 is 2. This book is nearly new.

Twice times 2 is 4. Lay it on the floor.

Twice times 3 is 6. We're always playing tricks.

Twice times 4 is 8. The cows are always late.

Twice times 5 is 10. Let's do it all again.

Students walked to and from school, but some may have ridden horseback or traveled in horse carts or buggies. Later privately owned wagons or hacks transported the students.

At first all teachers by law were male and were usually paid \$15 for teaching 26 days a month (including Saturdays). By the act of 1831, school directors were allowed to hire female instructors. They received \$1.25 to \$2.25 for a 5 1/2 day work week. Male teachers were allotted \$20 per month of 24 days.

Very little coaxing was used to encourage children to behave. Often the school master used physical persuasion to keep discipline. In those good old days, they did not spare the rod to spoil the child. Hickory sticks and dunce caps were often used to achieve proper behavior also. Sled-length firewood was hauled to each school and cut into smaller pieces by the older students.

RULES FOR TEACHERS

Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys, and trim wicks, if needed.

Each teacher will fill the water pail and bring in kindling and firewood as provided.

Carefully trim goose quills and whittle nibs (split and sharpened feather pen points) to the pupils individual taste.

Male teachers may take 1 evening each week for courting purposes. (2 evenings a week if they go to church regularly).

After 10 hours in school, the teacher should spend time reading the Bible or other good books.

Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.

Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of their earnings for his/her benefit during their declining years, so as not to be a burden on society.

Any teacher that uses tobacco or liquor in any form, frequents pool halls or public taverns will give good reason to suspect his/her worth, intention, integrity, and honesty.

Teachers who perform faithfully and without fault for 5 years will receive an increase of \$.05 per week (providing the Board of Education approves).

In 1815, Ohio state law allowed for the establishment of common schools:

#1 Randolph Center District school was located in a frame house at the center of town on the southwest corner. It served 20 families. Church services were also held in the same building (1821 – 1828) before it became the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) Hall

#2 West District bounded by Congress Lake outlet creek to the Suffield line. It served 12 families. A one room log cabin school was built on Hartville Rd. at the intersection of Eberly Rd. About 1843 this school house burned to the ground and since population had increased it was decided to rebuild farther to the east on Eberly Rd.

#3 East District began 3/4th of a mile east of town and extended to the Atwater boundary and north to the Rootstown line. 16 families used this school. This little log school was replaced by a brick building and it is still standing near what was Neal's grocery store at the intersection of New Milford and Waterloo roads.

#4 Hollow District was bounded on the north by Rootstown Township and extended west to the Suffield border. 18 families were served. The Johnnycake Hollow school was located at the intersection of Hartville and Randolph roads. The original building was moved in the 1920's by C. J. Lang to about 3/4th of a mile eastward on Randolph Rd. He used it for storing apples, it is now a private home.

#5 Butternut Hill District was the area south of town to the Stark Co. borderline. 9 families were in this district. This school house was built on the southwest corner of Laubert Rd. and

what is now S.R. #44. This school later burned, but was replaced soon afterward. A portion of this structure was moved and added to the farmhouse to the south. It is still in use.

As population increased, other school buildings were built to accommodate the rising number of pupils in the township:

A one room log structure was built along side Ravenna Rd.(SR #44) near the Bassett Rd. intersection. It was south of Costick's barn and across from Steve Bosco's house.

Brockett school was named because it was on Wilford Brockett's farm. Glenn May later owned this property on New Milford Rd. near the Bassett Rd. intersection. This school was also known as: Twin Pines, Evergreen, and Fenton school. It is now a farm storage building.

The old Brumbaugh school was located further south on the Hartville Rd. at the northeast corner of Laubert Rd. Years later this brick house became a private residence, it is no longer standing.

The boundaries were again changed in 1830. and tax levies were introduced. These increased from 3/4th of a mill up to 2 mills. Text books were required and adopted:

Webster's American Speller, American Preceptor, English Reader, Daboll and Pike Arithmetic, Woodbridge's Geography, Bible and New Testament were also reading texts

In the early 1830's, the Center School building was determined to be unattendable and classes were moved temporarily to the 'Old Tannery' building a short distance to the west near Breakneck Creek. Later Bob McCormick operated a garage at this site. It is now a private residence.

In 1831, the township permitted the hiring of female teachers for the first time.

St. Joseph Parish opened a chapel/school in 1838. Joseph Schroeder was the first teacher. The school was located near Conley Rd.

In 1839, a new brick building was constructed to the north of Randolph Center. Truman Case was engaged as the first teacher and was paid \$25 a month of 24 days, boarding himself. Enrollment was 100 with the average attendance of 78 pupils. In 1840 Edmund Smalley was hired. He taught some of the evening classes, tended the fires and boarded with the scholars. The school became so well-attended that another assistant was hired for a sum of \$10 per week for 11 weeks. McGuffy's reader was introduced about this time.

In the spring of 1842, a joint district was formed with Rootstown Township. A school building was built on Peter Dussell's farm on Saxe Rd, east of Hostler Rd. and west of the feeder.

Another joint district was formed the following year, 1843, with Marlboro Township. A new school had been built to replace the old Butternut school which had burned.

A small school was located Hartville Rd. across from the German Reformed Church and Cemetery. This building was moved to its present location on Alexander Rd. A workman was crushed to death while moving this structure. It is also a private residence now.

In 1844 another district was formed and known as the Steam



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Randolph Township

The Randolph Review

The Randolph Review is published on a quarterly basis for the purpose of providing useful and interesting information to township residents. Citizens' input, suggestions and comments are welcome.

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OLD SCHOOLS IN RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP

Mill District. A schoolhouse was built by those interested on Eberly Rd. just southwest of Oscar Keller's home. This school was later known as the Girl's Finishing School.

A joint district was also formed with Atwater Township. A school building was located on Laubert Rd. just west of Maxwell Rd. (across the road where Steve Nuspl's greenhouse once stood). It was called Mudbrook school, Marshall school, Muc Creek school or Maxwell school, depending on the times.

A brick building had been built a short distance north of Randolph Center on the east side of what is now S.R. #44. Later in 1878 this brick building was replaced by a larger structure at a cost of \$900. The Randolph High School was built behind this site in 1929, sadly this building is no longer standing.

Ammi Nichols started his own "select school" north of Randolph Center across from the Christian Church. Mrs. Nichols and Miss Leafy Youngman also assisted as teachers.

Other Randolph Township teachers included: Chauncey Tupper, N. D. Hubbard and his brother Stephen Hubbard, Miss Minnie Case, M.D. Buckman, W.W. Slabaugh, Miss Kate Laubert, Norman Royer, J.E. Wilhelm, C. M. Shook, Miss Cora Hatcher, Miss Hattie Merriman, Miss Mary Laubert, Nina Stanford, Miss Cora Brockett, Miss Bertha Maxwell, Miss Carrie Dorflinger and Miss Mary Riedinger.

Benjamin Rodgers bought a blacksmith shop in town and remodeled it. He moved it to a location on the east side of S.R. #44 between Eberly and Laubert Roads on what is now the Marcus

Horning farm. This served as another select school and functioned for 3 years before it was given up in 1850.

After 1900, the Randolph Township school districts offered just one eight month term. Across America one-room school houses were criticized for their many short comings: underpaid teachers, lack of books, aging buildings, inadequate and unsafe facilities, as well as undependable transportation. Rural country schools were being pressured to consolidate into larger regional district schools. The growth of cities, suburbs and towns was changing the entire country. Relentless emphasis upon standardized instruction and consolidation gradually wiped out the small country schools.

The one-room schools may be gone now, but over the years they provided a fine education to millions of Americans. They have much to teach us, along with many fond and lasting memories.

